

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Docket: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736
Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001
Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0325
Comment submitted by Sarah Bradshaw, Sand Hill Farm

Submitter Information

Submitter's Representative: Sarah Bradshaw
Organization: Sand Hill Farm

General Comment

Please, do not limit our ability to be profitable and remain a family farm. We're now in the sixth generation of farming in Southampton County, VA. We have been doing everything we can to maintain our soil and water resources for the next generation and also for our bottom line. It just doesn't make sense not to take care of the land we depend on. The proposed TMDL will very likely put us out of business, costing the local government even more. Currently our farm doesn't need schools, roads, and other services. But if we are unable to farm, we will be forced to sell lots for development.

Cost share funding will be critical to meeting demands of EPA. Due to several recent weather disasters, Virginia grain farmers in some cases face their fourth failed crop consecutively. This causes little to no profit and in turn decreases their farm income average. Farmers cannot carry the burden of financing additional best management practices or paying to have documents created outlining how they already farm only to satisfy government regulations (ex – nutrient management plans cost \$3-\$5 per acre).

Please, don't regulate agriculture just because you can and you can't regulate homeowners that pollute the bay at larger numbers.